



Issue: AZ-CW1003

ARIZONA AGRI-WEEKLY

For Week Ending March 9, 2003

Released March 10, 2003, by the Arizona Agricultural Statistics Service and University of Arizona, College of Agriculture, 3003 N Central Avenue, Suite 950, Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2994, (602) 280-8850, Fax: (602) 280-8897, www.nass.usda.gov/az/. To receive this information via email send a message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and include in the BODY of the message: subscribe usda-az-crop-weather John Doe (replace with your name).

Field Crops Report

As of March 9, **alfalfa** harvest progress was reported as 52 percent not being harvested, 17 percent light, 10 percent moderate, and 21 percent active. **Alfalfa** condition was reported as 21 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 23 percent excellent. Sheep continue to graze on alfalfa fields for winter pasture.

Small Grains emergence is near completion, while heading is just getting underway. There was 93 percent of **Durum Wheat**, 93 percent of **Barley**, 90 percent of **Winter Wheat**, and 93 percent of **Other Small Grains** reported as emerged.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crops Report

Last week producers in central Arizona shipped broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, head lettuce, mixed greens, leaf lettuce, napa, parsley, romaine and spinach. Producers in western Arizona shipped anise, bok choy, broccoflower, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, endive, escarole, kale, mixed greens, napa, parsley, rapini and spinach. Western lettuce shipments included boston, iceberg, leaf and romaine.

Citrus producers in central and western Arizona shipped grapefruit, lemons, navels and tangerines last week.

Livestock, Range and Pasture Report

Range and Pasture conditions were reported as 26 percent very poor, 24 percent poor, 24 percent fair and 26 percent good. **Livestock** were reported to be in fair condition. **Stock Water** was reported as short. **Soil Moisture** was reported as short. **Insect Damage** was reported as none to light.

During February, some areas in the state received more rain than all of 2002. The increased precipitation improved ranges and pastures in Arizona which were in mostly fair condition. Arizona livestock were in fair condition. Stock water supplies were short to adequate and soil moisture throughout the state was reported as short to adequate. Insect damage was reported as none to light.

Northern grazing conditions ranged from poor to good during the month of February, improving from last month. Most ranchers reported improved moisture, but subsoil conditions are still dry. High level elevations were in poor to fair condition. Mid level elevations were reported in poor to fair condition. Low level elevations were in poor to good condition. Livestock were reported to be in fair condition. Stock water supplies and soil moisture were reported as short. Insect damage was reported as none to light.

Overall, Central pasture conditions were reported as fair, improving greatly from last month. Ranchers have reported an excellent start to spring feed, while stock tanks are beginning to fill up. Range and pasture conditions were reported as fair at high level, poor to fair at mid level, and fair at low level elevations. Livestock conditions were reported as fair. Stock water supplies and soil moisture were reported as adequate. Insect damage was reported as none.

Southern pastures were reported in poor to fair condition. Ranchers reported improved moisture, but not much run-off. Things are looking better, but more rain is needed. Conditions were fair at high level elevations. Mid level conditions were mostly fair, while low level elevations were reported in mostly poor condition. Livestock conditions were reported as fair. Stock water supplies and soil moisture were reported as short to adequate. Insect damage was reported as none.

Weather Summary

Temperatures for the entire State were below average for the week ending March 8. Temperatures ranged from 5 degrees below normal at Douglas, Flagstaff, Kingman, Parker, Payson, Tuscon, and Willcox, to 1 degree below normal at Phoenix. The highest temperature of the week was 80 degrees at Yuma, while the lowest reading was 6 degrees at Flagstaff. Much needed precipitation was reported at 11 of the 17 reporting stations, ranging from a low of 0.01 to a high of 0.68 inches.

Major Contributors: The University of Arizona, Cooperative Extension Service; U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service; U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Rural Economic and Community Development Services; Arizona Citrus, Fruit and Vegetable Standardization

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Weather Information Table (temperatures, precipitation, and/or growing degree days)

**TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION DATA
 FOR THE WEEK MARCH 2 TO MARCH 8, 2003**

Station	Temperatures				Precipitation 2/		
	Avg.	Dep. 1/	High	Low	Past Week	Jan. 1 to Date	Normal to Date
Canyon De Chelly	42	-2	65	25	0.00	1.59	1.61
Casa Grande	59	-4	77	36	0.12	2.02	1.84
Coolidge	58	-3	77	37	0.01	1.99	2.18
Douglas	52	-5	72	26	0.00	1.04	1.55
Flagstaff	35	-5	55	6	0.08	3.12	5.36
Gila Bend	62	-4	79	39	0.30	3.73	1.73
Grand Canyon	36	-4	55	9	0.68	3.74	3.81
Kingman	50	-5	69	32	0.00	1.78	2.73
Parker	62	-5	77	42	0.00	1.83	1.76
Payson	45	-5	65	24	0.02	8.09	5.39
Phoenix	60	-1	78	46	0.00	3.72	1.90
Prescott Airport	43	-2	65	26	0.17	3.89	2.82
Safford Ag Center	53	-4	73	29	0.11	1.17	1.73
Tucson	58	-5	74	34	0.21	1.32	2.11
Willcox	51	-5	71	26	0.03	1.49	2.28
Winslow	44	-2	66	21	0.07	0.82	1.15
Yuma	64	-3	80	47	0.00	0.95	0.74

1/ Departure of temperature for reporting period from average temperature for that week.

2/ Daily precipitation totals 5 a.m. to 5 a.m. instead of midnight to midnight. Periods of record used in computing "average to date" for precipitation and "departure" for average temperatures may be obtained from National Weather Service, Phoenix.

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